



# News Release

## **WISCONSIN AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **More Air National Guard members called to active duty**

Some members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing will depart Mitchell International Airport tonight (March 6). They are the first of some 100 unit members expected to be ordered to active duty. The mobilization will be for an initial period of one year. Fifty members of the unit are already serving on active duty.

The 900-member unit is based at General Mitchell International Airport and flies the KC-135R Stratotanker.

The primary mission of the 128th Air Refueling Wing is to provide midair refueling support. The members called to active duty are pilots, air refueling specialists, aircraft maintenance personnel, and support staff. Wisconsin National Guard officials expect the mobilized Guard members and several tanker aircraft to eventually be deployed overseas to support the global war on terrorism.

The 128th Air Refueling Wing as a whole has not been activated.

The activation is part of the partial mobilization of the Guard and Reserve ordered by President Bush in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. More than 168,000 Guard and Reserve personnel nationwide are presently serving on active duty under the partial mobilization, supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (overseas U.S. military operations to combat terrorism) and NOBLE EAGLE (homeland defense and security operations in the continental United States).

Mobilization of these airmen will bring the total number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen currently on active duty to about 2,300. In addition to the 128th Air Refueling Wing, there are currently three Air Guard units, 13 Army National Guard units and an Army Guard air base security task force on active duty.

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